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FOR INFORMATION

CRITERIA AND NOMINATION AND SELECTION PROCEDURES FOR THE UNICEF MAURICE PATE AWARD

Information note by the Executive Director

Introduction

1. The present information note has been prepared in response to Executive Board decision 1994/R.1/5 to, inter alia, review the nomination and selection procedures for the UNICEF Maurice Pate Award.

Background of the Award

2. At a special session on 11 November 1965, the Executive Board approved the recommendation of the Executive Director that the Nobel Peace Prize money be used to establish a fund in memory of Maurice Pate, the first Executive Director of UNICEF (E/ICEF/537). Approval in principle was also given to a suggestion that the fund should be used to strengthen the training or experience of people serving in child welfare-related fields in countries with which UNICEF was cooperating. It was believed that a memorial fund which contributed actively to the general purpose of UNICEF would have particularly appealed to Mr. Pate, and it was agreed that a more detailed plan would be submitted to the May 1966 session of the Board.

3. In May 1966, the Executive Board approved a plan submitted by the Executive Director (E/ICEF/542, paras. 76-83) for a memorial fund that would give recognition to the value of regional training facilities in fields benefiting children. Each year, the fund would honour an institution in a developing country that adapted and offered its services to people from countries in the region. The selected institution would be given some modest assistance to strengthen its services to other developing countries.

4. By the end of 1978, the original funding and contributions for this Award were exhausted and, in 1979, the Executive Board approved the continuation of the Award from general resources (E/ICEF/P/L.1906 (REC)).

5. At its 1988 session, the Executive Board approved the recommendation that the Board confer annually the UNICEF Maurice Pate Award, as detailed in document E/ICEF/1988/P/L.37, for extraordinary and exemplary leadership in, and contribution to, the advancement of the survival, protection and development of children, whether on a national, regional or global scale. The Award could be conferred upon an institution, organization or individual with or without government affiliation. A timetable and procedures for the nomination and selection process were to be established by the secretariat (see E/ICEF/1988/13, annex I, paras. 45-47, and resolution 1988/9).

6. By broadening the criteria for recognition to include (a) achievements on behalf of children, (b) provision of resources to further those achievements and (c) the creation of examples lending themselves to emulation, the Executive Board can use the Award to encourage significant efforts on behalf of children. While encouraging leadership for children by individuals, the monetary benefits of the Award can be used to further activity, whether training, experience exchange or direct programme activity.

7. At its 1989 session, the Executive Board decided that the legislative procedure for selection of the Award recipient, as set forth in document E/ICEF/1988/P/L.37, would be further refined to reflect discussions in February 1989 with the Bureau and with various delegations (E/ICEF/1989/L.14 and E/ICEF/1989/12, decision 1989/22), with the selection decision to be taken by the Board through mail poll, upon recommendation by the Bureau in the last quarter of the year preceding the Executive Board session at which the Award is to be presented.

8. At the September 1989 Bureau meeting, the officers of the Board expressed the view that no Government or government-related officials should be nominated, that nominations should be sought from Board member Governments and that the Bureau should review and evaluate all nominations. In addition, they requested that equitable geographical rotation be ensured in the selection process. A document incorporating these recommendations for the Award criteria was prepared for submission to the 1990 Executive Board. However, after consultations between the Chairman of the Board and the secretariat and in view of the overcrowded agenda for the 1990 regular session, it was decided to defer submission of the new document to the 1991 regular session and to implement in practice and as practicable the above recommendations for the 1991 nominations.

9. The revised criteria for the UNICEF Maurice Pate Award, which also took into account views expressed by the new officers of the Board in September 1990, as contained in document E/ICEF/1991/L.2, were approved by the Board at its organizational session on 5 February 1991 in decision 1991/2 (see annex).

Annex

1991/2. Revised criteria for the UNICEF Maurice Pate Award

On the recommendation of the Executive Director,

The Executive Board

Decides that the procedure related to objectives, recipients, nominations and selection for the UNICEF Maurice Pate Award be amended to reflect the following:

1. Objectives and criteria

The UNICEF Maurice Pate Award is meant to call the world's attention to progress being made for children and to methods employed, thus inspiring replication and broader support. The Award shall convey recognition of extraordinary and exemplary leadership in, and contribution to, the advancement of the survival protection and development of children, whether on a regional, national or global scale. It should also serve to encourage voluntary and grass-roots activities. The work of the recipient should be innovative and inspirational, reflecting leadership in its field. It should also be on a country or regional scale with the potential of emulation so as to have a multiplier effect.

2. Recipients

The UNICEF Maurice Pate Award may be conferred upon an institution, agency or individual, but not upon a head of State or Government, nor upon a Government. The Award shall not be conferred upon any United Nations organization or official. Caution shall be exercised in the selection to ensure that the selection of a recipient does not inappropriately figure within national political processes. Due regard shall be given to the principle of equitable geographical balance.

3. Nominations

Each year, the Executive Director shall invite nominations for the Award from the Governments of Board member countries, UNICEF representatives, regional directors and other secretariat offices and National Committees for UNICEF in order to ensure a broad range of nominations. Solicitation of nominations shall stipulate a deadline of 31 July of the year preceding the presentation of the Award.

4. Selection process

The biographical data of all formally submitted nominations shall be reviewed and evaluated by the officers of the Board, the Executive Director and the Director of the Programme Division. On the basis of this comprehensive review and evaluation, the Executive Director shall submit a single recommendation for approval by the Executive Board at its February organizational session.